



City Administrator's Report

January 2008

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

James L. Armstrong
jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5301

Tony Ruggieri
truggieri@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5311

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Key Meetings

January 8, 15, & 29: **City Council Meetings**, City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

Community Events

January 12: **Annual Pruning of Mission Rose Garden**, 9 a.m. For more information, call the City Parks Division at 564-5433.

Flags on State Street: www.santabarbaradowntown.com

January 4 - 14: GaySantaBarbara.org

January 14 - 24: Planned Parenthood

January 24 to February 4: Santa Barbara International Film Festival

City Administrator

What's Going on Inside Santa Barbara? *Inside Santa Barbara* is an award-winning, thirty-minute, monthly newsmagazine show that airs on City TV Channel 18. The show covers the City's significant issues, projects, and events. In January's episode of *Inside Santa Barbara*, we take a sneak peak into the new affordable housing complex in beautiful downtown on 21 East Anapamu Street, called Casas las Granadas. City TV tours this project and meets one of its new tenants. Also in this episode, City TV takes a walk on Chapala Streets, where new bulbouts have been installed to accommodate the area's increasing number of pedestrians. City TV also strolls through City parks to explore how the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) is used to manage these sites. The City's IPM Program has taken state honors by winning the IPM Innovator Award by the Department of Pesticide in Sacramento. We also continue our Youth Focus series and find out how local teens are being hired for local jobs through the Youth Apprenticeship Program. Finally in this show, we tour the large corporation and find out how they are using the City's help to fulfill its New Year's resolution to go green.

To find out when you can watch *Inside Santa Barbara*, go to www.citytv18.com

Administrative Services

Hop on the Metropolitan Transit District Board. The City is currently conducting a special recruitment for the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District Board. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, January 18, 2008, at 5 p.m. It is anticipated that the City Council will conduct interviews on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, around 3:30 p.m. The application form and vacancy notice are available at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov or by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (805) 564-5309.

Airport

Shifting the Runway Means Increasing Safety. The final phase of the airfield safety projects is scheduled to take place January 6 through April 9, 2008 and will impact main runway operations during inclement weather. The runway will be shifted 800 feet to the west and necessitate removing existing markings and painting new markings as well as relocation of Glide Slope equipment which gives vertical and horizontal guidance for aircraft landing in low visibility conditions. Due to the relocation of equipment, the main runway will temporarily function without an Instrument Landing System (ILS) used by pilots. A radio navigational landing approach will still be available during this time period but when there is low visibility weather, aircraft take-offs and landings will be affected causing disruptions to airline arrival and departure schedules. Should the weather be clear or even with high overcast conditions, the absence of an ILS will not affect airline operations.

Year-to-Date Passenger Count Down. In November, there was a 1.6% decrease in passenger usage at the Santa Barbara Airport over the same month in 2006 due to night time closure of the airfield for construction. Over 750,000 passengers have arrived and departed at SBA through November for a total year-to-date passenger volume decrease of 4.9% compared to last year. The highest average load factors are aboard the flights to Dallas (American Eagle) and Denver (United Express).

Community Development Department

Toward a Healthy Community. A free community forum presented by the Coalition for Community Wellness, and co-sponsored by the City as a *Plan Santa Barbara* event, will take place on Saturday, January 19th at the Victoria Hall Theatre, 33 West Victoria Street, between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The forum, entitled "Creating a Healthy Community" will feature Dr. Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH, a nationally-recognized expert in the study of how the physical form of our cities and neighborhoods relates to epidemics of obesity, diabetes and lung disease. There will also be a panel of experts representing the fields of nutrition, parks and recreation, air pollution and transportation. While the forum is free, seating is limited to 300 attendees; registration can be completed in advance through Adult Education at the Schott Center starting on January 10th, and thereafter at either the Schott or Wake centers. Registration can also be done on the day at the door, starting at 9:30 a.m. For more information about this forum and events, visit www.YouPlanSB.org. This forum will be videotaped by City TV and aired on Channel 18.

This Month at the P.C. The Planning Commission will have regular meetings on January 10th, 17th & 24th.

On January 10th, the Planning Commission will consider a number of smaller items in the afternoon. At 6:00 p.m., the Planning Commission will hear a staff presentation and hold a discussion on City responses to Climate Change and Sustainability Issues.

On January 17th, the Commission will consider a proposal to demolish the gas station at 1298 Coast Village Road (at the intersection with Olive Mill Road) and construct a mixed-use project, containing about 5,000 square feet of commercial space, eight residential condos, and 38 parking spaces.

On January 24th, the Commission is tentatively scheduled to consider the Radio Square project at 210 W. Carrillo Street and a mixed-use project at 803 North Milpas Street (to replace the demolished gas station with five mixed-use condos, one live-work unit, two strictly residential condos, 2,200 square feet of commercial space and 26 parking spaces). The Commission will also hold a concept review of the proposed Arlington Village proposal at 1330 Chapala Street, which has been redesigned since its Concept review by the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Improving our Neighborhoods. In a historic shift, the Building and Safety component of the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force this year began taking the initiative, instead of relying on complaints, to launch building code enforcement cases. As a result, to cite examples of the larger cases, three dilapidated houses have been demolished so far, and two multifamily complexes are on their way to being safe and more attractive.

Finance Department

November Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Down 1.9%. After over six months of extremely slow growth, the City's TOT for November declined 1.9% from the previous November. After five months of the fiscal year, year-to-date growth is just 2.2%. This falls well below the 7% growth needed to meet budget for this critical revenue source. It is now almost certain that we will fall short of budget. If true, this will also require a downward revision to next year's TOT revenue budget (the second year of our two-year financial plan) which was built upon this year's budgeted amount.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%
Aug	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%
Sept	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%
Oct	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%
Nov	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	869,864	-1.9%
Dec	575,075	4.0%	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%		
Jan	606,484	3.7%	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%		
Feb	699,349	-0.6%	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%		
Mar	872,554	11.5%	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%		
April	941,281	7.5%	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%		
May	1,001,438	11.8%	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%		
June	1,158,018	18.9%	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%		
FY Total	\$ 11,081,510	6.9%	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 12,691,167	5.5%	\$ 6,422,747	2.2%
Budget	\$ 10,684,900		\$ 11,504,200		\$ 12,630,600		\$ 13,581,500	
Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).								

Sales Tax Revenue Declines 1.5%. Sales tax revenue for the quarter ended September 30th declined 1.5% from the same quarter of the prior year. This follows two consecutive quarters of fairly strong growth. The table below presents sales tax revenue on a calendar quarter as reported to the City by the State. We will need about 4.2% growth over the next three calendar quarters in order to meet our fiscal year 2008 sales tax revenue budget.

With TOT and sales tax both showing year-over-year declines for the most recent period, property tax revenue subject to the uncertainty of the current real estate market turmoil and the State's disastrous budget situation, staff is extremely concerned about the near-term revenue outlook.

SALES TAX								
Quarter Ended	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year
Sept 30	4,512,083	-0.5%	5,164,138	14.5%	5,234,636	1.4%	5,154,452	-1.5%
Dec 31	4,946,706	3.8%	5,034,371	1.8%	5,109,958	1.5%		
Mar 31	4,367,907	1.8%	4,367,052	0.0%	4,698,398	7.6%		
June 30	4,793,216	3.7%	4,992,005	4.1%	5,240,527	5.0%		
Totals	\$ 18,619,912	2.2%	\$ 19,557,566	5.0%	\$ 20,283,519	3.7%	\$ 5,154,452	-1.5%

Fire Department

Wildland Fire Season Comes to an End. The Santa Barbara County Fire Chiefs Association officially declared fire season "over" on December 21, 2007. The declaration is based on the changing weather and recent rain totals. However, even though the weather allowed the declaration to be made, heightened concern remains for the danger of fire in our wildland, as well as our wildland/urban interface areas due to increasing fuel loads and historically low moisture levels in our vegetation. This past fire season has been one of the most active on record for the City Fire Department, with over 100 responses to wildland fires in and outside of Santa Barbara County.

Holiday Structure Fire. A structure fire occurred on the evening of December 26th at a residence on Cliff Drive. Upon arrival, City firefighters found active fire to the rear of the structure, on the main level and also in a sub-floor area. The fire was quickly extinguished. None of the occupants were home at the time. Upon investigation, the cause of the fire appears to be accidental, due to overloading of electrical wiring near the water heater, which overheated and ignited surrounding combustibles. Estimated dollar loss to the property and contents is \$100,000.

Library Department

Raising Money to Raise Literacy. The Santa Barbara Public Library was the recent recipient of a \$1,077 gift card from a Barnes and Noble fundraiser. The project was initiated by First 5 with the proceeds designated for local early literacy programs. The library will use the money to purchase books for its Reach Out and Read clinic program and for its preschool outreach projects.

New Patron Registrations. 10,662 new patrons registered for library cards between January and December 2007 at the Santa Barbara Public Library System branches and Central library. Patrons may apply for a library card in person at any branch. They can also print out the online application from the library website, complete it and mail it to the Central library, and receive their card in the mail. Identification will be required to validate the card the first time it is used to check out materials. Cards are issued to students from out of town attending college in the library service area, and to other long-term visitors with a verifiable local address. City or county employees with a library card may participate in the VIP program, requesting materials online (<http://www.sbplibrary.org/leap/>) to be delivered to their workplace.

Parks and Recreation Department

Time to Prune the Roses. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Rose Society are requesting volunteers to help prune the popular A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden on Saturday, January 12 (rain date: January 19) starting at 9 a.m. The stunning garden contains an accredited, All-American Rose selection of over 1,500 plants adjacent to the Santa Barbara Mission and is nourished throughout the year by Rose Society members and Parks Division caretaker staff. The annual pruning is necessary to insure abundant blooms for the spring and summer months and requires a large hands-on effort using volunteers from the community.

No experience is necessary; rosarians will be on hand to demonstrate proper rose pruning techniques to interested participants. It is recommended that volunteers wear work clothes including long pants and long sleeves, eye protection such as safety glasses and leather gloves. Participants should bring hand pruners, a leaf rake and a lopper. Refreshments will be provided by the Santa Barbara Rose Garden Society. For more information, please call the City Parks Division at 564-5433.

Proposition 12 State Grant Funds Helps Complete Five Projects.

Leadbetter Beach Utility and Improvement Project. This \$135,000 project was installed to provide electricity outlets and potable water stations in the picnic area of the park. These improvements enhanced the park for community use during special events.

Los Baños Discharge Project. Historically, the pool has discharged directly into the storm drain system, which is no longer permitted under state and federal water quality regulations. \$75,000 of grant money was used to divert the pool's backwash to the sewer system, bringing Los Baños into compliance.

Franceschi Park Entrance and Parking Lot Rehabilitation. Funded with \$300,000 from the grant, the project involved the removal and replacement of the existing asphalt paving from the entrance at Franceschi Road through the parking lot. Additionally, four eroded pedestrian paths were removed and replaced. This project is the first phase of the Franceschi Park Master Plan implementation.

Tennis Lighting Control Project. Both the Municipal and Las Positas tennis courts have received an energy-saving, cost-saving upgrade through the installation of on-demand lighting. Lights can now only be turned on when needed by players. It is anticipated that significant energy and cost savings will help the Department's operating budget. The project cost is \$57,000.

Dwight Murphy Concrete Mow Strips and Sports Fencing. The project involved the installation of 1,350 feet of concrete curbing and the replacement of approximately 1,855 feet of sports field fencing around the City's best soccer field. The curbing allows the Department to restrict the growth of turf to the playing area without having to use herbicides.

City Partners with Sailors for Community Service. The USS Ronald Reagan will be in Santa Barbara on January 11th through 14th, 2008. Thanks to the efforts of the Navy League, approximately 60-80 sailors will be partnering with the Police Department, Parks and Recreation and the Public Works Departments, CalTrans and the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force on a variety of clean up efforts on Saturday, January 12. Volunteers will participate in neighborhood clean ups along the Milpas Street and Highway 101 corridor, painting the Skate Park, refreshing the picnic tables at Leadbetter Beach Park, and some relandscaping at Shoreline Park.

Police Department

Embezzler Behind Bars. On December 4, 2007, Detective Norma Hansen arrested 46-year old Laura Rose Tibbin, for grand theft embezzlement. Tibbin was an office manager for the law firm of Rogers, Sheffield and Campbell for 13 years. Last May the business discovered that Tibbin had been helping herself to multiple "bonus" paychecks, had opened a corporate credit card without permission, wrote corporate checks to cover the bogus bills, submitted false claims for reimbursements, and issued checks from the business account to pay her own Federal and State income taxes. The 13-year embezzlement spree is estimated at \$329,497. Tibbin was booked at County Jail for grand theft, bail set at the cost of the embezzlement spree: \$329,497.

Fatal Traffic Collision. On December 19, 2007, a pedestrian was killed in a collision with a garbage truck. The collision occurred at 6:29 a.m. at 500 East Yanonali Street, about 30 feet west of Calle Cesar Chavez. The conditions present at that time were: nighttime, streetlights operating, cloudy but not raining, and wet roadway surface. The involved parties were: Willie Glover, age 41, an employee of Marborg Industries, who was driving a 1994 Peterbilt garbage

truck, and two pedestrians; 53-year-old Michael Neff, who was killed, and his companion, 45-year old Michelle D. James.

The investigation determined that Glover was driving north on Calle Cesar Chavez, and was making a left turn to travel westbound on Yanonali Street. Meanwhile, the two pedestrians, who spent the night at the Rescue Mission at 535 East Yanonali Street, were crossing Yanonali Street from north to south. Michelle James was walking with a cane and Michael Neff behind her. The area was lit by a street light posted at the intersection. As the Peterbilt truck rounded the corner, it struck the two pedestrians who were approximately midway across the street. Michelle James was knocked away from the path of the vehicle and received very minor injuries. Neff was run over and pronounced dead at the scene. Glover stopped the truck and cooperated with the investigation. He did not appear to be under the influence of any substance, and voluntarily provided a blood sample for analysis. Glover stated that he did not see the pedestrians prior to the collision. The victim's body was retained by the Sheriff's Coroner. There was no evidence that drugs or alcohol played a factor, but a toxicological examination will provide confirmation. In addition to the involved parties, police questioned other witnesses to the incident.

Purse Snatcher Caught. On December 19th, 2007 at 8 p.m., a 25-year-old woman parked her vehicle in the 1200 block of De la Vina Street, walked downtown, and met up with some friends. That evening at 2 a.m., the woman was walking back to her vehicle. When less than one-quarter block from the safety of her parked vehicle, the woman sensed movement from behind a large palm tree in the parkway. Suddenly, a man jumped out and snatched her purse. Meanwhile, two men ages 23 and 24 were driving down De la Vina Street. They did not see the street robbery but witnessed the suspect flee with a purse. The victim, who suddenly remembered that her entire Christmas shopping fund of \$600 cash was in the purse, desperately ran in the street after the suspect. She saw the witnesses' vehicle, banged on the hood, and pleaded for help. The witnesses jumped out and gave chase. They caught up to the suspect, who threw the purse down and tried hiding in some bushes. The witnesses returned the purse to the victim. The victim jumped in her vehicle and drove away, leaving only her first name as a clue to her identity. The witnesses, who happened to live nearby, returned to their residence to talk about the incident. The suspect, possibly deciding to waylay another victim, continued to loiter in the area. The witnesses noticed him and called police. Officers contacted the suspect, the witnesses, but not the victim because she left the area. At the crime scene police found a broken strand of pink pearls, apparently dropped unnoticed by the victim. Detective Jaycee Hunter investigated the case. Even without the victim being contacted or identified, he developed enough information to arrest the suspect, Noe Cortez Gonzalez, age 18, for robbery. His work not done, Detective Hunter used the scant victim information and managed to track her down. She provided a statement and identified the pink pearls as her own. The suspect remains in custody on \$50,000 bail.

Public Works Department

State of the Water Supply. On December 19th, 2007, the Water Resources Division presented the annual Water Supply Management Report to the City Council. The report findings conclude that water supplies continue to be sufficient to meet the goals of the adopted Long-Term Water Supply Program. Continued dry weather will result in further drawing down of Lake Cachuma and Gibraltar Reservoir. However, given that we are at the beginning of the

rainy season and there are still three years of capacity in Lake Cachuma, a drought declaration was not recommended at this time.

Last year was the driest year in over 100 years. However, we expect occasional dry years and our water system is designed for that. Lake Cachuma has multi-year storage capacity, so a single dry year is not a major concern.

Rainfall will be closely watched this year. Continuing dry weather would probably lead to a recommendation to declare a drought condition. At the same time, rainfall may be enough to completely refill our reservoirs. This would end any concern about drought for the time being. During wet years or dry years, water conservation is important because it stretches our supplies for use during droughts. For more information on the City's water supply, call 564-5460 and [click here](#).

Unsafe Passage is Water Under the Bridge. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 17th to celebrate the completion of the Mason Street Pedestrian Bridge Project. The Mason Street Pedestrian Bridge is the result of a successful team effort, innovative design, and skillful construction that provides Franklin Elementary School students and the public with safer pedestrian access across Sycamore Creek at Mason Street. The Project includes pedestrian and creek friendly enhancements between Soledad and Salinas Streets. The improvements include a rustic steel prefabricated pedestrian bridge with flagstone paving and sandstone rock accents, a continuous sidewalk, new pedestrian lighting, creek bank erosion control and habitat enhancement, as well as new landscaping that will enhance the area. The City of Santa Barbara took over responsibility from Cal Trans for the vehicular bridge as part of the Milpas Street Roundabout Project. A bridge analysis concluded that the bridge is structurally sound, but that it was too narrow to accommodate safe passage of both cars and pedestrians. The Public Works Department staff designed and constructed the new pedestrian bridge on the south side of the existing bridge to minimize traffic and pedestrian disruptions and reduce costs. Funding for this project came from the State Route 144 Relinquish Agreement with Caltrans.

Waterfront Department

Marina 4B Endtie Reconfiguration. Construction is complete at the Marina 4B endtie. Associated Pacific Constructors, Inc. installed sixteen 24" diameter steel piles off the endtie to create three large-vessel berths. The large steel piles are necessary to securely moor vessels up to 90' long in this part of the harbor that's known to get a little rough in "southeasterlies." Clusters of wooden piles known as "dolphin piles" formerly provided secure berthing at 4B endtie for the research vessel William McCaw and the whale watching vessel Rachel G. Unfortunately, the harsh marine environment took its toll on the dolphin piles, rotting them through to the point where many were no longer attached to the harbor bottom. This provided an opportunity to add large-vessel berthing with more durable materials. Associated Pacific made quick work of the project and NOAA's research vessel Shearwater and two other large vessels should be securely moored to the steel piles by the first of the year. The steel piles will not require replacement for at least 50 years, making this \$430,000 effort a sound investment (and good revenue source) for the Waterfront.

Marina 1 Replacement Project Questionnaire. The majority of Marina 1 was constructed in the 1970s and includes 16 fingers (A - P) providing berths for approximately 500 vessels.

Marina 1 was expanded in 1998 adding approximately 100 slips on 3 fingers (Q – S). A recent engineering analysis and staff assessment of Marina 1 concluded that the concrete docking system on A – P fingers is nearing the end of its useful life. The project will replace the main walkway and A – P fingers in 10 phases over the next 10 to 12 years. One of our initial project goals is to get feedback from the Marina 1 Stakeholders. In December 2007, Waterfront staff developed a questionnaire to help understand what is most important to Marina 1 Stakeholders. The questionnaire is in the December issue of the Department newsletter and online at the City Waterfront Department main page. Santa Barbara Harbor is a big place and Stakeholders are not just slip permittees, but boat maintenance workers, yacht brokers, commercial fishermen, Yacht Club members, Youth Foundation members and anyone who uses the Marina 1. Many harbor users will be affected by this ambitious project and we want input from as many Marina 1 stakeholders as possible. The results and comments from the questionnaire will help the Waterfront Department develop a design and set of construction techniques that impact slipholders as little as possible.